

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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OUT OF THE RUT

IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF.

Some little booklets issued by the Willesden Labour Party for the last District Council and Guardians Election were certainly "out of the rut." It is not every Party or agent who would venture on what is nothing less than a 16-page pamphlet, with cover, for the purpose of such elections, but in this case the enterprise of the Party and its agent, Mr. A. E. Nunn, was justified, for they secured no less than 18 out of 44 Council seats, and 10 out of 22 Guardians' seats. The pamphlet had on the front cover a list of the candidates, both for the District Council (Urban) and the Guardians, and the cover was also used as the "poll card," the back being set out as a specimen ballot paper. On the first page of the inside appeared the candidates' election address, this being followed by pages with photographs and a brief resumé of the career of each candidate interspersed with displayed matter of a propaganda and electioneering order. There were, of course, a big number of candidates, and so a separate book was issued for each ward and the candidates standing for same. The originality of the enterprise certainly justified itself, and the Willesden Party's book of the election was undoubtedly the most talked of and read literature that was issued.

We understand that the National E.C. of the Labour Party has considered the recent growth of Choirs and Musical Societies within the Movement, and consultations have taken place with a view to the extension to the whole country of a scheme for a National Labour Choral Union. It is suggested that local choirs should be established in association with Divisional and Local Labour Parties, and Labour Choral Unions are to be set up for suitable areas to co-ordinate the activities of these choirs, a National Labour Choral Union linking up the whole. A draft constitution for

the National Labour Choral Union has been approved by the E.C. of the Labour Party and a national delegates meeting is in contemplation. Circulars have been issued to all Labour Parties explaining in detail the scheming and asking for information as to present choirs and similar matters. This questionnaire has already been issued and we trust readers of this notice interested in the matter will see that it receives due attention at the meeting of their Local Parties.

We have received a number of useful samples from Mr. W. H. Hunt, Organiser, Gravesend Divisional Labour Party. One of these is a duplicated leaflet advertising open-air meetings for a rural area. Mr. Hunt adopts the idea when advertising such meetings of including more than one meeting on a bill, because, as everyone knows, the destination of a distributed handbill in a country area is very uncertain; it may be that a bill distributed in or near a particular village reaches persons who can better attend a second or third meeting held in an adjacent parish or village. The "campaign" effect secured by an announcement of several meetings has in addition a moral value. Mr. Hunt has also a suggestion as to distribution. He organises a Youth Section Ramble through the villages in the week-end prior to the meeting; distribution then takes place, out-of-the-way villages being, of course, done by post. A similar Adults' Ramble organised after the meeting ensures a good follow-up.

There are not many Local Parties which indulge in postal ballots for the election of officers, and we know of one or two places where the same was tried and poor results ensued. On the other hand several instances of successful postal elections of officers have reached us this year, and, applied in rural areas, the issue of ballot papers through the post has in these instances

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THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

It is in the month of August that winter activities of local parties seem to cast their shadows before them and sometimes mar the pleasure of the secretary's holiday. Indeed the Party secretary in a Municipal Borough can have little peace of mind during the latter days of August, for not only are the winter series of meetings drawing near but the Municipal elections are almost here.

It is to be hoped that the selection of Municipal candidates has already been fairly completed. It is high time that a meeting of the candidates was held, and if there are Councillors already elected it is a great opportunity to get some joint meetings of candidates and councillors. There are several advantages for this course. Candidates are made more familiar with the policies and practical matters with which they will have to deal, while there is a corresponding benefit to councillors who can reap an advantage from contact with new minds. A word of caution is necessary here. The meetings we urge are intended for the political education of the candidate. They are not expected to develop into election committee meetings. Indeed they had better not be held if candidates are merely to meet to discuss how the campaign shall be conducted. That is the business of the Local Party.

A good deal of preparation work for the final fortnight can now be put in. It is not too early to think of summoning the ward committees for a preliminary survey of the resources in workers. If any campaigns for membership have been indulged in this year special attention should be given to the new recruits amongst whom one can reasonably expect to find election talent. Envelopes might be ordered, though it is too early to address them, for the advance copies of the new register are not likely to be available before the 1st October. But the method by which the canvass will be conducted should now be settled and the necessary forms and canvass material ordered. One supposes that few places can indulge in the single card system of can-

vassing at the Municipal Elections, but anyway, whichever method is selected there is preliminary material to be got ready. Speakers should also be booked and a general consideration given to the questions which will be given prominence during the election.

Work which every secretary, whether in Boroughs or in the Counties, will be concerned with just now is the preparation of the winter syllabus of meetings. We cannot too strongly impress the necessity of some sort of series of meetings being arranged in every place where there is even the skeleton framework of an organisation. However, anæmic the Party, it should at least justify its name by public appearances on the platform, and meetings must be arranged. We do not believe in the plan of waiting to fix meetings till some speaker turns up. Spasmodic and occasional meetings cannot be compared in effect with a studied series of meetings carried on as a sustained effort. If your Party cannot do a weekly public meeting try one fortnightly, and if it can't do that, try one monthly. Yours will be a poor Party if it cannot do this and work in six meetings before March. Even so if you cannot do monthly meetings try two a quarter, but above all things don't let your Party fail to accomplish this little effort. Regarding speakers, unless one pursues the foolish policy of wanting only front rank people, it will be found that there are plenty of speakers available. Whatever the difficulties were in procuring speakers a few years ago, the Party is well off now for all the demands that can be made upon it if only Local Parties and secretaries will realise that the smaller meetings, that are so necessary, should be addressed by lesser men and women, the majority of whom can give a good account of themselves and deliver convincing speeches.

Supposing secretaries of Local Parties where clubs exist were to give an unfettered answer as to the value of their club to Party life, we wonder what the answer would be? We are afraid that on many occasions active

Party spirits have given themselves whole-heartedly to the establishment of a club with the accessory of a bar only afterwards to bitterly regret what they have done. This must not be taken as a wholesale condemnation of Labour clubs with drinking facilities, but the fact does remain that in a great number of cases the facilities become the attraction and Labour activity takes second place or even fifth place. We have indeed known cases where a club has been established by Local Labour leaders and the place has actually ultimately become a harbouring place of active enmity. At any rate so many ill-experiences have come before our notice that we should hesitate long in helping in the establishment of any future club that was not on temperance lines. Holding these views, therefore, we are interested to record the remarkable action of the East Islington Labour Party whose club was established nearly two years ago on quite ambitious lines. When the club was opened a licence was taken out for the sale of intoxicating liquors. After an experience of over a year the committee and the majority of the members have come to the conclusion that, for the purpose of propaganda and clear vision of what to do to lift the community, the sale of intoxicants is not helpful. Consequently, even though it means a loss of several pounds a week, the sale of intoxicants is, by resolution of a general meeting, to be discontinued.

We know that one or two Labour organisations have recently been making attempts to collect the telephone numbers of such persons who possess them and with whom it is sometimes helpful to communicate by 'phone in the day time. In the larger towns particularly there are undoubtedly a number of officers available by telephone at their private places, while a large number of Trades Union offices and others are also always available. The collection of useful telephone numbers in this way is a matter that might commend itself to some of the readers of this column and the recording of same might well form a part of ordinary Party records.

One of the unpleasant things which is borne in upon us time and again by a perusal of the account of Local

Labour Parties is the fact that in the majority of cases there is a great deal to be desired in the way of an efficient system of book-keeping. We do not expect Local Labour Parties to be able to keep their books precisely as a large commercial firm would do, but certain things are essential whether the Local Party be large or small, and these things are simplicity, clarity and completeness, and in these respects few accounts that we see are entirely satisfactory. The reason is not far to seek, for the vast majority of Local Parties were not in existence eight years ago, and the direction of their growth has not been entirely foreseen. Activity upon activity has been entered upon and in many cases each fresh activity has meant a separate fund and each new branch or section of the Party has meant one too. Thus we get in some places quite a number of internal organisations with separate income and expenditure and no attempt at co-ordination.

Now the first principle in Local Party finance is to recognise that all income whether derived through ward committees, individual sections, social committees or what not, is the property of the Party itself and they are responsible finally, also for all expenditure. Unless this supreme control rests with the Party no end of confusion can be occasioned and awkward situations arise. The principle recognised, it will mean that whatever discretion or spending power is given to sections or committees they must finally render an account of gross income and expenditure as part of the Party's income. Committees' "balances in hand" should show on the Party's balance sheet, and in this way we should get in the annual accounts a far more complete statement of a Party's strength and position than is now commonly the case.

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LOCAL NEWSPAPER MEMS.

In our February issue we gave a notice of "The Gazette," a monthly journal, circulating in the Borough of Camberwell (Camberwell, Dulwich and Peckham), the editor-manager of which is Coun. C. A. G. Manning, L.C.C., Labour Agent, North Camberwell. This magazine has now been running since January and an interesting review of its development is to hand. The paper is ordinarily an eight-page quarto publication, though on two occasions it has gone to 12 pages, and on one occasion to 16 pages. It started with a guaranteed circulation of 33,000 but now its guarantee is 38,000 per month. Taking the first six months of the year the printing costs have been £337 16s. 2d., and no less than £278 5s. od. has come back from advertisements. The satisfactory sum of £81 2s. 6d. has been received by way of donations from the 5 Labour Parties in the Borough (i.e. the 4 Divisions and Borough Party) and a few others. There have naturally been one or two small bad debts, but six months' working leaves the promoters with over £15 in hand, which is exactly that sum more than they had when they started. Therefore the audacity which we noted in our February issue that the promoters were starting with "nothing but our own genius and the goodwill of our friends" has been well justified and we heartily congratulate them upon it. The success of "The Gazette" is indicative of the health of Labour in this part of London, where Labour representation on all public bodies is almost solid.

The "Dover Pioneer" is a ten page quarto monthly magazine, the organ of the Dover Labour Party, and made its appearance with June. It is printed on good paper in clear type, and illustrated, and its appearance is clean and attractive. There is a good showing of advertisements and we understand it was established on a sound business footing. It is sold at the price of one penny. Editor, Mr. Harry Ellis; offices: 6, St. Martin's Place, Dover.

The "Bedford Monthly Review" is a similar size, 12 pages monthly, which made its appearance in the same month and is the organ of the Bedford D.L.P.

Certain pages are syndicated, as is also the case with the "Dover Pioneer," and this journal equally bears a clean and attractive appearance. It is priced one penny, and we trust a long life is before it. Editor-manager, Major W. J. R. Wingfield, 10, St. Michael's Road, Bedford.

With an article concerning Bermondsey in this issue it is opportune to notice the "Bermondsey Labour Magazine" which is one of the most prosperous and sound-looking monthlies published in the Movement. There are 10 pages, with a coloured cover, and the paper is sold at one penny. As might be expected from Bermondsey it is vigorously run and of bright appearance, while the number of advertisements speak of permanence and prosperity. It is nicely illustrated. We are interested to note that "Our Portrait Gallery" in the July issue "features" Mr. J. A. W. Douglas, the Labour Agent for West Bermondsey, and Miss A. Broughton, both of whom will be well known to our readers, and concerning whom we extract the following:—Mr. J. A. W. DOUGLAS. Mr. Douglas came to Bermondsey in 1920 as Assistant Organiser of the Bermondsey Branch of the Independent Labour Party. In the year 1923 he was appointed to the position of full Organiser, Secretary of the West Bermondsey Labour Party, Assistant Secretary of the I.L.P., and Labour Agent for the West Bermondsey constituency. His steady, quiet work behind the scenes, and his great organising gifts have contributed in no small measure to the electoral victories which have been won by the Labour Movement in the Borough during the last few years. Miss ADA BROUGHTON. Miss Broughton was appointed as Organiser for the Women's side of the work of the Bermondsey I.L.P. in 1920. She had previously had organising experience for the Labour Movement in the North, and also as Agent for the British Women's Temperance Association. In 1923 she was appointed Assistant Secretary to the West Bermondsey Labour Party, Assistant Secretary to the Trades Council and Organiser of the Women's department of the Labour Movement in West Ber-

mondsey. In addition to all these activities Miss Broughton is an Alderman of the Borough Council, on which body she is Secretary and Whip of the Council Labour Party, and she takes her full share in the administrative work of the municipality.

Number one of the "North Lambeth News," a new four-page monthly made its appearance on 18th July. We are interested to note the attempt to present a varied bill of fare for readers and this is as necessary a thing to maintain with a free journal as it is with a journal put out for sale. The contents include an interesting article by Mr. R. Sudell of gardening fame, and among other contributors we notice Mr. Ernest E. Hunter and Mr. G. R. Strauss. The guaranteed circulation is 10,000 copies per month. Editor: Mr. S. L. Harford. Offices: 88a, Lambeth Walk. S.E.11.

"The Newcomer" is, as its name implies, yet another fresh venture in the ranks of Labour journalism. The first number appeared in June as the organ of the Maldon D.L.P., and the paper is monthly sold at one penny. It is a four-page "Herald" size journal, with 20 full columns of varied reading matter, but not a single advertisement. On its literary side the paper, by its variety and interest, some of which is localised for the villages, justifies a long career, but we are afraid that the attempt to rely on income from sales alone, even if supplemented by donations, does not promise a long life. We would earnestly and urgently advise our friends to seek a good local advertisement canvasser or turn to and get advertisements themselves, for the paper is one which we should like to see continue; and it deserves continuance! Editor: Mr. R. B. Bates. Office: Manor Works, Braintree.

Editors and promoters of Local Labour journals will be interested to learn that Miss Jessie Stephen, Labour Candidate for Portsmouth South, is syndicating a regular feature for Local Labour journals, this being a women's column of 1,000 words written in lighter vein. We understand that recipes are also included in this women's column, and that two or three editors already have availed themselves of it. The price is remark-

ably low, and we would strongly urge editors in search of attractive women's matter (and all editors should be in search of this) to write Miss Stephen, at 57, Salehurst Road, Crofton Park, London, S.E.4, for a specimen of articles already issued. This column for the women is well worth the expenditure.

TRUE BLUE VERSUS RED REVOLUTION.

An amusing incident which took place during the Forest of Dean By-Election has since come to light.

The Tory colours in Gloucestershire are deepest blue, but in the neighbouring County of Worcestershire nothing but blood red satisfies our Tory aristocrats and millionaire M.P.'s—among whom is of course the Prime Minister. Worcester Tories decided to take a holiday by charabanc to Chepstow and, gaily bedecked in Mr. Purcell's colours, the direct route took them through Newnham, the ultra-Tory headquarters! What happened was only what had happened to the editor of this paper and others, for the sheer sight of the colours was as the incitement of red rag to a bull! The booing began, and all unaware of the true situation many of the charabancers returned the booing with interest. It was a picturesque scene while it lasted, for Mr. Baldwin's supporters, and Worcestershire Tories generally, are good at booing. Altogether the few Labour supporters in Newnham felt greatly cheered at the unexpected advent of so many vociferous "reds."

IS YOUR AGENT A MEMBER
of the

**National Association
of Labour Registration
and Election Agents?**

*(Acts as the Trade Union
for Labour Organisers)*

**General Secretary: H. DRINKWATER,
Ladywood, Fernhill Heath, near Worcester**

THE BERMONDSEY WAY

By Miss JESSIE STEPHEN, Labour Candidate, Portsmouth South.

There are many things for which Bermondsey is famous, the renowned pacifist resolution of some years ago, the I.L.P. Co-operative Bakery which can beat the private traders at their own game while paying higher wages and working its employees less hours and charging less for its bread, and its activities in many fields of Labour and Socialist effort, but it is not of these I wish to write.

Rather would I concentrate on the phenomenal increase in Labour's vote during the past six years and the reasons therefor. To appreciate this, it is necessary to relate that Dr. Salter, the Labour representative of West Bermondsey, in the House of Commons is not only an uncompromising pacifist but a prohibitionist to boot. The significance of his vote becomes even more apparent in view of this.

In 1918 he polled just two short of two thousand votes; 1924 brought him to the top of the poll with over 11,500 votes or nearly six times as many as at the Khaki election. Nor is this all. Labour holds over forty seats on the borough council, a representation which is likely to be increased to well over fifty in November. On the *Guardians* it holds 21 out of 25, and West Bermondsey, the constituency of which I write, did not even give the other side a look in, in any of the four wards which comprise it.

In addition all the county council seats are held by Labour. How is it done? John Douglas, the agent, who is by no means one of the "showy" kind, would tell you it is due entirely to steady plodding work, year in, year out. Stunts are all very well, and I am of those who think they are necessary at times, but for making a seat impregnable they are worse than useless.

When Douglas took over, ward organisation was in a chaotic state. True there was some evidence on paper that such organisation existed, but when it was required to function it was simply not there. That cannot be said to-day. In every ward there is a strong committee composed of enthusiastic and willing workers. The ward I represent on the council was one of

the very weakest. Now it compares with those wards which have been looked upon for years as Labour strongholds. Actually it beats those others in its sales of the *Bermondsey Labour Magazine*. For July the income was over £3, while the best the others could do was just around £4 between them.

As the magazine is distributed free to every house in the constituency, this payment is an entirely voluntary one and helps to meet what deficiency might remain on the publication.

The magazine itself is quite a pleasing thing. Twelve pages well printed on good paper, with coloured covers which always bear an interesting picture, it makes a ready appeal to the electorate. I happen to know that there are many people outside the borough who subscribe to the magazine because it keeps them in touch with local happenings.

Douglas emphasised the wisdom of keeping as strictly as possible to local news, such as the deliberations of the local governing bodies and what the member does in the House. The pages are always well illustrated with photographs of interesting local events and leading personalities. It was launched immediately after Dr. Salter's defeat in the 1923 election, with a consequent result of a jump in the poll by 3,400 votes in the space of nine months. The policy of spending money on photographic blocks, while making the production more expensive, pays in results, as is evidenced by the above. Sixteen thousand copies are printed and distributed each month and this work has to be done by the wards. It will be seen from this heavy labour that the wards really do function to some tune. Douglas's slogan seems to be "Keep 'em at it."

But his persistent and quiet organising work does not stop here. Incessant propaganda is always being carried on. At least three meetings are held every week, and already this season no less than five weeks' special missions have been conducted by well known national propagandists. The usual Thursday indoor meeting is run throughout the year without intermission, a point which may appeal to those who think

the regular meetings should be dropped in the hot weather.

In the matter of raising finance this terrible chap is indefatigable. Not only has he raised over five hundred pounds in the last three years by bazaars, but he actually finds time to organise a bazaar agency which supplies goods to other Labour bodies running bazaars. He buys sweets and chocolates by the ton! A fellow like that simply will not be held down.

And now a word about the women's work, for which the very painstaking and hard-working Ada Broughton is responsible. I can remember the time when it was a difficult matter to get women to attend Labour meetings at all except at election times, but Ada Broughton manages to get them there in the hottest weather. She has a propaganda meeting for women every Thursday afternoon, in addition to which there is the usual Women's Section every alternate Wednesday evening. The audience has to travel from the furthest ends of the constituency and seem to like it, so far as I can judge. The other week they had a garden party confined to the women folks, and sad to say there wasn't enough room for them all, although the garden was not the usual three by four yards.

Charabanc outings, trips of all sorts keep the women interested, while it is seldom that a good speaker is not available. Women whom you would scarcely believe were interested in politics can put the most pointed questions on matters where some of the menfolks I have addressed from time to time have been all at sea. Probably Miss Broughton is helped in her work by the tremendous amount of work she does for the Country Holiday Fund of the L.C.C. In this way she gets in touch with the mothers in a way not possible otherwise.

At any rate one cannot wonder, with such a team as these two that Bermondsey is too strong meat even for a coalition of the other parties.

I was anxious to find out what system was adopted in canvassing the electors, and was handed a stiff card with space for 24 names. At the top is the name of the street, a space for the number of the card, and the ward. I hope the editor can find space to reproduce it since it is much simpler than

trying to draw a pen picture of the production. [Yes—next month.—Editor "Labour Organiser."] Some very good advice is tendered to canvassers at the bottom, such as "Please be extremely courteous even to opponents." How one wishes all our supporters would remember this!

When the canvass has been made, new cards are written out containing only the names of Labour supporters. Douglas finds this much better than having a record of those against. So far the records show over 16,000 supporters in West Bermondsey out of an electorate of nearly 24,000, and most of these would have been polled at the last election had the weather been good. At any rate they rolled up for the Guardians' Election.

The agent maintains that this record of his is 95 per cent. efficient. When I think that many of us are quite pleased if we can be sure of eighty per cent., this achievement is a notable one. I might suspect this was idle boasting in anyone else, but my knowledge of the man is sufficient for me to credit his statement unquestioningly.

I have not mentioned multifarious activities in the way of study circles, University tutorial classes, public speaking classes, canvassing classes, but it will be understood that such efforts are necessary when you have to find somewhere around sixty borough councillors and a host of other local administrators. A week or two in Bermondsey would put heart into the most despondent.

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LAW AND PRACTICE

[Under this heading are found brief and chatty explanations of points of commoner interest concerning the Law and Practice of Elections. Readers are invited to suggest points for notice herein, but are reminded that suggestions made may not necessarily be dealt with in the next issue.—Ed.]

PAYMENT OF ELECTION EXPENSES EXCEPT THROUGH AGENT.

In spite of an additional stringency in the law imposed by the Representation of the People's Act, 1918, quite a large number of people are still ignorant of the grave danger involved in attempting to incur expenses or pay bills without the authority of an election agent in a Parliamentary election.

We will first of all quote the two Acts of Parliament which prohibit payment other than through an agent and which lay down the penalties therefor.

The first Act is the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act of 1883, Section 28 of which reads as follows:—

"Except as permitted by or in pursuance of this Act, no payment and no advance or deposit shall be made by a candidate at an election or by any agent on behalf of the candidate, or by any other person at any time, whether before, during, or after such election, in respect of any expenses incurred on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of such election, otherwise than by or through the election agent of the candidate, whether acting in person or by a sub-agent; and all money provided by any person other than the candidate for any expenses incurred on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of the election, whether as gift, loan, advance, or deposit, shall be paid to the candidate or his election agent and not otherwise;

"Provided that this section shall not be deemed to apply to a tender of security to or any payment by the Returning Officer or to any sum disbursed by any person out of his own money for any small expenses legally incurred by himself, if such sum is not repaid to him.

"A person who makes any payment, advance, or deposit in contravention of this section, or pays in contravention of this section any money so provided as aforesaid, shall be guilty of an illegal practice."

As though the above provisions were not stringent enough the Representation of the People Act, 1918, went even further, and in place of laying down that an offender was guilty of an illegal practice (punishable by a fine not exceeding £100, etc.) the new Act actually made the offence a corrupt practice (punishable with hard labour or a fine not exceeding £200, etc.).

Section 34 of this Act reads as follows:—

"A person other than the election agent of a candidate shall not incur any expenses on account of holding public meetings or issuing advertisements, circulars or publications for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of any candidate at a Parliamentary election, unless he is authorised in writing to do so by such election agent.

"If any person acts in contravention of this section, he shall be guilty of a corrupt practice other than personation within the meaning of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, and the expression 'corrupt practice' shall be construed accordingly."

It will be seen from the above that our legislators take a very serious view both of *the act* and *the intention* of persons who nowadays incur expenses or make payment without the authority of the election agent, and the man or woman who does so is a very foolish person indeed.

It will be observed that within the scope of the above provisions there is ample room for the efficient conduct of the election; the provisions in no way hamper legitimate payments or activities. The real object is that expenses may be known, and curtailed, and so kept within the limiting provisions of the Acts, and that these same payments and expenses, whatever they are, or however much they may be, shall all finally be traceable to one person on whom responsibility can be fixed both for their amount and legality. The provisions of Parliament are in fact wholesome provisions making for the purity of elections and for their easy and efficient conduct, and the person, whoever he or she may be, high or low, who defies these Acts, and incurs expenses other than through the agent, or by and with his written authority, is *more* than guilty of disobeying an Act of Parliament, they are guilty of a moral breach which undermines the code of honour on which democratic elections take place.

Questions have arisen from time to time as to what was intended by the C.I.P.P.A. in exonerating "any sum disbursed by any person out of his own money for any small expense legally incurred by himself." Here it must be first noted that any such small expense must not now apply either to holding a public meeting or issuing advertisements, circulars or publications.

What is a small expense? In this regard it is worth while quoting the opinion of Mr. Justice Cave in a famous case, in which he said:—

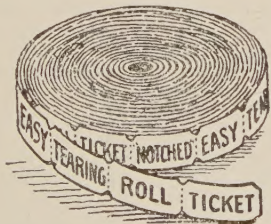
"To my mind the proviso is meant to apply to such small payments as the hiring of a cab by a (voluntary) canvasser in order to go round canvassing (where no use is made of it for the purpose of taking any voter to the poll), or for telegrams or postage where the payee is not and does not intend to be repaid. It is not intended to apply to so large a sum as £20, although it might, perhaps, cover the purchase and distribution of Two Shillings and Sixpence worth of cartoons or any small expenses of that kind which is not forbidden by the Act, which a person who is not an agent may legally incur."

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THE NATIONAL PROPAGANDISTS

Some evidence reaches us that the conditions under which the services of the National Propagandists are lent to constituencies by the Head Office of the Labour Party are not sufficiently understood. We are afraid that the perfunctory reading of these conditions to a crowded general meeting or to a busy Executive does not always have the effect of securing the fulfilment of all the provisions, and the consequence is that in some cases full value is not received from the services lent.

It is an essential part of the scheme that the Party propagandists' visits take on a definite shape, i.e., a rousing series of well-advertised public meetings, with at least one women's meeting, and that at all these meetings a big push is made with Party literature. The combination of these things alone can secure the maximum effect, and the same thing is not secured by forgetting the literature, omitting the women's meeting, or carting the propagandist out to a wayside meeting the advertising of which has been omitted. We trust that the publication of the conditions here will enable even the minor officers of Local Parties to appreciate what is necessary and insist upon it being done.

1. The salary and expenses (hotel accommodation) of the speaker will be paid by Head Office. The rail fare to the constituency and *within* the constituency will be a charge upon your local funds, and as the engagements will be arranged whenever possible in tours through contiguous constituencies, this charge will be reduced to a minimum. The cost of the hire of halls and adequate advertising will be the only other charges upon your local funds.

N.B.—The meetings must be properly organised and advertised in a way that will impress the public, in order to secure full value for the visit. Biographical notes of the propagandist will be forwarded for advertising purposes when visits are arranged.

2. At least one women's meeting, preferably afternoon, should be held during the week, and if possible the services of the Woman Organiser

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correspondents are required to give their full name and address, not, however, necessarily for publication. Replies from general correspondents cannot be given through the post. It is imperative that where a reply depends on a statement of fact (such, for instance, as qualification of an elector to be on the register), the fullest information should be given.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR AGENT'S ACTION BEFORE ELECTION.

Question.—I have been appointed agent in the ——— constituency and our Prospective Candidate is ———. I understand that I have to be again appointed as election agent when the election comes along, but there are several things I might wish to do before that time in preparation for the election. Should I have any authority to do this? And further, supposing my candidate was changed at the last minute what would be my position if I had ordered envelopes, canvass cards, etc., or posting boards which might be used at the election? Could the candidate repudiate what I had bought?

Answer.—Our friend's question is a very involved one, out of which several points arise. In the first place the appointment of an election agent need not necessarily be made by the candidate; it can be made by other persons, and in the Labour Party, and possibly in other Parties, there may be customs which qualify the simple procedure contemplated by Parliament of the appointment of an election agent at the last minute.

One of our customs is the payment of a candidate's election expenses by the Divisional Party or a Trade Union, and it is natural therefore that the appointment of an agent should be made, at the least, in consultation with these bodies, and this is so in practice. Therefore our friend need have few qualms that when the election comes along he will be appointed to take charge of the contest. In fact this is commonly contemplated in the appointment of a Labour agent and we do not think his repudiation at the last minute, and the appointment of another agent, is at all a likely thing.

But in all these matters one has to recollect that the office of election agent is *personal to the candidate*; that is to

say, the election agent during the contest is *the election agent of the candidate* and all contracts are made as the agent of the candidate. There must therefore, even where financial liability is taken over or accepted by other persons, be a recognition of this fact when making contracts. It would be quite unreasonable for our friend to expect to be able to order goods beforehand for any candidate or in the name of any Party which would materially affect the total of expenses or which might bias the course of the campaign. By this we mean that goods should not be ordered without some consideration as to the general course of the campaign, and naturally in this every candidate has a right to have a say. For instance, we have known agents who wanted to incur heavy liabilities for photo cards. In one case we know of the amount involved was over £100. Obviously such commitment would be a sheer absurdity, and any expenditure of any sort approaching this amount would materially affect the general plans of an election, and unjustifiably shut out consultation by others to this extent. An agent ought generally to confine himself to orders of necessary stationery and matters which require preliminary preparation such as envelopes and canvass cards. The preparation of boards for posting bills upon would in our opinion generally be a justifiable item.

As regards the point as to whether any of the last named items could be repudiated by the candidate we would, in the first place, express the opinion that no sane candidate would do anything of the kind, and in the second place we would advise our correspondent that it is because there is a distinct liability on a candidate to adopt such expenditure we have given the above warning. The late Mr. Justice Hawkins' judgment in the Walsall petition are here worth quoting, as showing how and where this liability arises. Because it exists agents should be careful. "... I think the limit of time to which we ought fairly to apply our minds is a period commencing from the time when it was first known that the respondent announced his intention to present himself as a candidate for election at the next ensuing election. I cannot think that the period of candidature or the period of agency is to be limited either by the date of the issuing

of the writ or by the day of nomination ; but I think that when an election is contemplated as probable in the course of a few months, and it is well recognised that to secure the election of a particular candidate active steps must be taken, and every exertion made at once to secure that object, it cannot be reasonably said that there can be no agency to take such steps or to make such exertions until the immediate approach of the election by the issuing of the writ."

For further enlightenment our correspondent might turn to the "Labour Organiser" for February, 1922, where a kindred point is dealt with, and also to the "Labour Organiser" for August, 1923, where we give the remarks of another learned judge in another case.

ABOUT TYPE AND PAPER.

Question.—A correspondent asks several questions concerning the above matters, which we will endeavour to answer.

Answer.—In the first place the following is a rough and ready method of calculating how much space our correspondent's MSS. will make when set up in type.

Size of type in points.	No. of words per square inch.	
	Solid.	Leaded
12	14	11
10	21	16
8	32	23
6	47	34

To read the above table we will assume that our correspondent's matter will be set up in 8 point, i.e., the size of type used in this journal. Roughly speaking then it will take 32 words to every square inch of type if set "solid." Our friend should be able to reckon the number of words he has used, and given the form or manner in which he will have it set, i.e., the width of column or page and depth of same he should readily be able to calculate how much room the matter will take. The term "leaded" here means spaced out with two point leads.

The second question has reference to the meaning of the terms "laid" or "woven" as applied to paper. Now these terms are not indicative of quality but merely of a difference in the manufacture. The same material is in fact used, and the only difference between a "laid" and a "wove" paper is in the

dandy roll employed in the manufacture. When a roll with wires arranged parallel with each other is used the paper assumes a ribbed appearance and such paper is termed "laid." If the roll is of fine wire the paper is termed "wove." The right side of the paper is that on which the wire mark, whether "laid" or "wove" is least distinguishable.

The third question our correspondent asks is as to the meaning of such names concerning paper as double crown, demy, etc. These terms have reference to the sizes of the papers concerned and not to their quality, and the following is an abbreviated table showing the names and sizes of papers in common use.

Printing Papers.

	Inches.
Double Demy	... 35 x 22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Double Crown	... 30 x 20
Royal	... 25 x 20
Medium	... 23 x 18
Demy	... 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Crown	... 20 x 15

Writing and Drawing Papers.

	Inches.
Double Foolscap	... 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Large Post	... 21 x 16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Demy	... 20 x 15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Post	... 19 x 15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Foolscap	... 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 13 $\frac{1}{4}$

"SOCIAL INSURANCE AND THE WORKER."

Issued by the Independent Labour Party Information Committee, 14, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.1 (2d.) this a most valuable analysis of existing schemes of Insurance together with some useful constructive criticism and proposals for the establishment of a unified system. Mr. Cohen says that "workmen want a simple straightforward scheme to provide them with adequate protection against their emergencies. If they are not yet enthusiastic and clamorous for any scheme, it is because advocates of Social Insurance have never yet presented a straightforward policy with clarity and vigour. The pamphlet is packed with useful facts and figures, and is completed with a selected bibliography. The proposals contained in the pamphlet may not be generally approved, but they undoubtedly constitute a basis for very useful discussion in the form of public opinion."

GET READY FOR THE NEXT ELECTION.

"How long will Mr. Baldwin last?" If the question had been put to Labour members when the new Parliament met last December, and again now that the House has adjourned for the summer recess, two very different answers would have to be recorded.

When Mr. Baldwin returned to the House of Commons at the head of his enormous forgery-born majority, it seemed, on the surface, that he had the prospect of as long a lease of power as the Liberals in 1906.

Many of the "orphans of the storm," as Miss Wilkinson described her colleagues, thought of Mr. Baldwin's crew as the men of Bolivar in Kipling's ballad, felt when, battling with hurricanes and mountainous waves in the Bay of Biscay, they saw a liner 'go by like a grand hotel."

This appearance of strength and durability was illusory. To-day there is not a Labour member who believes that this Government will be long-lived."—"The Daily Herald."

* * *

Those who are reckoning on Mr. Baldwin's Do Nothing Government, staying in for another four years had better (if they are Labour Party members) revise their reckoning. Writing soon after the last General Election, I gave this Government two years at the most. I am now induced to the views that they will not last even that long. The rumours of another General Election within a year, mentioned by our London Correspondent last week, were repeated in varying forms in last Sunday's papers, and in each case the rumours were based on certain tendencies in Government circles towards risking yet another appeal to the country for a mandate to apply Protection as a "remedy" for unemployment. Whether or not such an appeal is being seriously contemplated by Mr. Baldwin does not greatly matter at the moment. The thing that matters is that even the anti-Labour Press is telling the people in effect that the Tory Government is a wash-out and that the country is going to the demnition bow-wows owing to the lack of constructive ability in the Tory Cabinet. Mr. Baldwin will soon be hearing the "B.M.G." cry, and when that cry becomes a yell he will, I think, decide that if Baldwin Must Go the

Government will go with him.—The "Town Crier" (Birmingham).

* * *

We believe it was the "Labour Organiser" which among Labour papers first ventured an opinion that the present Government could not last. We concluded that two years would be sufficient time for the forces within to explode the Tory majority.

Powerful influences which helped to create the Tory victory are now bitterly critical of the present administration. It is of course much too early to see the end, but we still opine that the heterogeneous interests which have combined in the Conservative Party of to-day will develop their conflicts sufficiently in two years to bring about the fall of Mr. Baldwin's Government.

FREE SPEECH.

The following definition of the rights of free speech will be of interest. It is a quotation from a judgment of Lord Dunedin which sufficiently states the legal position.

"There is no such thing as a right in the public to hold meetings as such in the streets . . . Streets are for passage, and passage is paramount to everything else. That does not necessarily mean that any one is doing an illegal act if he is not at the moment passing along. It is quite clear that citizens may meet in the streets and may stop and speak to each other. The whole thing is a question of degree. The right of free speech is to promulgate your opinions by speech so long as you do not utter what is treasonable or libellous, or make yourself obnoxious to the statutes that deal with blasphemy and obscenity. But the right of free speech is a perfectly separate thing from the question of the place where that right is to be exercised. Open spaces and public spaces differ very much in character, and before you could say whether a certain thing could be done in a certain place you would have to know the history of the particular place. For example, there may be certain places which are dedicated to certain uses . . . and things that otherwise were lawful might be restrained if they interfered with the purposes of that dedication."

ABSENCE OF CANDIDATE ABROAD.

We have received one or two enquiries relative to the position of a candidate who at the time of an election is abroad. It may be useful therefore to state the exact position in relation to candidates for both Parliamentary and Municipal Election and their position also in regard to the necessary declarations of expenses following an election. The conditions differ materially.

So far as a Parliamentary candidate is concerned there is no provision preventing the nomination of a qualified person for Parliament, even if that person is at the time of the nomination and poll abroad. Neither is there any express Statutory provision reserving this right for persons abroad. The right, however, rests upon an old case reported so long ago as 1784 and arising out of a Petition at Colchester.

The absence of a candidate abroad at the time when the election returns are to be transmitted has, however, been made the subject of express enactment by Parliament. The case may arise where a candidate has been nominated "in his absence" or without his consent, and where the candidate has taken no part in the election. In such case he is not obliged to make a declaration. Otherwise, *except he is abroad*, a candidate must transmit to the Returning Officer a declaration similar to the agent's declaration at the same time as the agent transmits his return or within seven days afterwards. Failure to do so is an illegal practice.

But the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1883, Section 33 (8) further says:

"Where the candidate is out of the United Kingdom at the time when the return is so transmitted to the Returning Officer, the declaration required by this section may be made by him within fourteen days after his return to the United Kingdom, and in that case shall be forthwith transmitted to the Returning Officer, but the delay hereby authorised in making such declaration shall not exonerate the election agent from complying with the provisions of this Act as to the return and declaration respecting election expenses.

Commenting on those provisions a high authority says:—

"If a candidate who is yachting about the coast, and therefore 'out of' the United Kingdom at the time when

the return of election expenses is transmitted, touches at a port in the United Kingdom, that would probably be held to be a 'return to the United Kingdom' within the meaning of the above section, unless, perhaps, the candidate himself did not land, or his stay at such port was little more than momentary."

Now with regard to a candidate for Municipal honours the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882 contemplates the absence of a candidate abroad at the time of an election and lays down peculiar provisions for his election thus in the third schedule, part 2 (16):—

"The nomination of a person absent from the United Kingdom shall be void, unless his written consent given within one month before the day of his nomination in the presence of two witnesses is produced at the time of his nomination."

Singularly enough in spite of the foresight above noted there is no provision in the same Act exonerating a candidate who is abroad from making his return in the usual time.

A Municipal candidate who has been abroad at the time his return should be sent in has apparently no remedy but to apply for "relief," and relief has been given in, at any rate, one such case.

Continued from page 9.

should be secured for the occasion in addition to the propagandist.

3. Labour Party literature must be on sale at each meeting and this must be ordered in good time to ensure delivery. This work should be definitely organised as a special feature of the Party's activities.

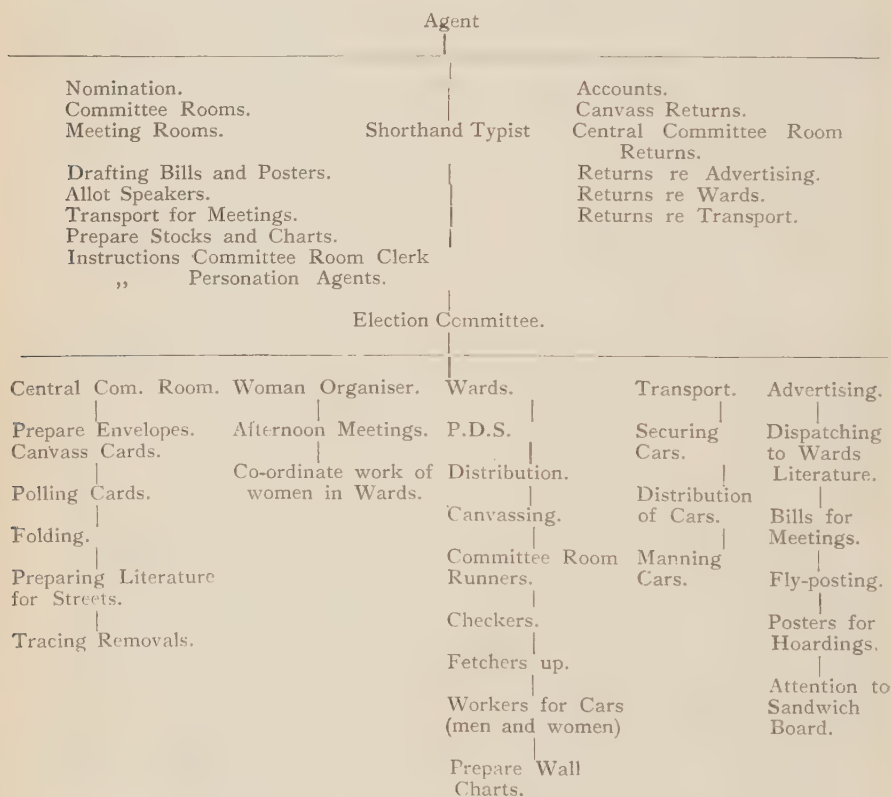
N.B.—We will send a parcel "on sale or return" to your order.

4. The visit will be for a week of five days from Monday to Friday (unless otherwise arranged with us). If a Saturday or Sunday meeting is desired instead of a week-night, this must be arranged direct with the propagandist if his week-end arrangements permit.
5. These bookings are subject to the demands of any by-election that may occur, but every effort will be made to give adequate notice in such cases.

INSTRUCTIONAL LITERATURE FOR WORKERS.

Profoundly believing as we do in the necessity for making election and organisation work generally simple and agreeable to the workers we have special pleasure in printing on the following pages a selection of the instructional literature issued for the

benefit of his workers by Mr. H. E. Rogers, Labour Agent in Bristol East. An excellent series of instructions to the election workers was also reproduced in our issue for November, 1924, back copies of which are obtained.



Ward Committees, Women's Sections and Polling District Committees.

Ward Committees and Women's Sections are always an essential part of the organisation of any Labour Party. The Divisional Party should see to it that a state of efficiency is maintained continually. It is the duty of all Ward Committees to see that a Secretary is appointed for each polling district and a nucleus of responsible workers for the various streets, with not less than one worker for each street (see previous article), long before the likelihood of a General Election. In this way the Agent is able to get into touch with every street in the constituency,

either direct or through the following channels, from Agent to Ward Secretary, from Ward Secretary to Polling District, from Polling District Secretary to Street Captain, from Street Captain to Street Canvasser.

The General Election.

To obtain efficiency, it is advisable to departmentalise the numerous duties entailed by the election. It will be observed that the key to a successful campaign lies in selecting good organisers and men with initiative as Ward Secretaries and Polling District Secretaries.

The AGENT is at the head of affairs, with the assistance of a shorthand typist. He is in charge of the general management of the campaign and responsible for the following details:—Securing nomination of Candidate, securing Committee Rooms, drafting handbills and posters; securing speakers for meetings; preparation of charts and stocks for Committee Rooms; instructions for Personation Agents; instructions for Committee Room Clerks, etc., etc., and see that the following particulars are received daily and tabulated: Canvass returns, returns from Central Committee Room, returns re advertising, daily accounts, returns re Ward organisation and transport. This enables him to see how the election is proceeding and to concentrate where needed.

The Election Committee.

The Election Committee should be comprised of persons in charge of the various departments.

1. Clerk in charge of Central Committee Room.

Duties. Preparing envelopes, polling cards, canvass cards, folding, preparing literature for streets (parcelling literature into district with correct numbers for each street and marked ready for street canvasser) and tracing removals.

2. Woman Organiser.

Duties. Organising afternoon meetings for women and co-ordinating work of women in various Wards.

3. Ward Secretaries or Agents.

Duties. Co-ordinating work of the Polling District Secretaries in his area. Responsible for distribution of literature through P.D.S. and Street Captains, etc.; tabulating canvass returns; obtaining Committee Room clerks, runners, checkers, fetchers-up, workers for car (men and women), preparing wall charts for polling day.

4. Transport Agent.

Duties. Securing cars, advantageous distributions of same, arrangements for meals for car-drivers (polling day), manning of the cars (names received from Ward Secretary)..

5. Advertising Agent.

Duties. Dispatching literature to Ward for distribution; billing of district during day for meeting at night; arrangements for fly-posting; dispatching posters for hoardings; daily attention to sandwich-boards.

Duties of Polling District Secretaries.

Gets together his workers and endeavour to increase their number; this can often be done in conjunction with the filling of nomination papers which are obtained from the Agent. Obtains literature for his district from Ward Secretary and hands it to his Street Captain for distribution. Obtains his canvass cards and issues to Street Captains, whom he sees daily for report of canvass. This report should be handed to Ward Secretary; responsible for all public meetings in his district; receives agenda from Agent and meets Chairman, Speakers, and Press; arranges for distribution of cards (No. 3) at meetings; collects cards and retains names of workers in his districts and returns others to Central Office.

Ward Secretary.

In addition to duties shown on Chart, he collects completed canvass cards from P.D.S. and makes a daily return to the Agent of Canvassing and other work accomplished. The canvasser has marked canvass cards in the following order:—

[EXAMPLE.]

PARTICULARS CONCERNING POLLING DISTRICTS.

Name of Ward: ST. GEORGE EAST.

POLLING DISTRICT: A

B

C

D

Name and Address of Secretary.	Mr. K. ARNOLD, 2 Lake View Road Whitehall.			
Address of Com- mittee Room.	269 Church Road, St. George.			

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ELECTION COMMITTEES: SHOULD THEY BE APPOINTED?

A question constantly asked is whether it is necessary or desirable that political associations shall be formally dissolved or suspended during the period of the contest. If the membership of the Association is believed to comprise any individual or individuals whose zeal and enthusiasm may lead to indiscretions, or whose past is not altogether beyond reproach, it is undoubtedly better that the association should be suspended or dissolved, and that the candidate should rely on the efforts of his supporters as individuals, and *not* as members of a political association. It is not considered imperative, however, that these associations should in all cases be either dissolved or suspended, but if there is the slightest doubt in the mind of a candidate or agent, for the reason above stated, it may be desirable that dissolution or suspension should be resolved upon.

Many experienced agents prefer to work without a formally appointed Election Committee, being satisfied with calling into consultation, if necessary, the Honorary Officers of the Association. With an inexperienced agent, however, or where it has always been the custom, the formation of an Election Committee is unquestionably advisable, but it must be remembered that each member of the committee is an "agent" for the purposes of the 'Corrupt and Illegal Practices Acts. While there are persons who strongly oppose the appointment, under any circumstances, of an Election Committee, there can be no valid objection to the existence of such a committee of honourable men profoundly interested in the fortunes of their party, anxious to promote legitimately the success of its candidate. The committee should be strictly limited in number. There is no occasion to publish the names of the members of the committee; reasons against publication will readily occur to anyone familiar with the friction which is the inevitable sequel of sins of omission and commission.

It is certain that the aid of a willing and deeply interested committee is of great value; and the influence of such a committee, if it be representative of all classes, may have a powerful effect upon the electorate.

If a committee is to be appointed it should, therefore, be set up at an early stage of the proceedings.

The election agent should acquaint the meeting of such schemes as he may have formulated, and should invite comments and suggestions. He should also invite suggestions generally. A properly constituted committee can render great assistance in connection with the organisation of the campaign. The election agent should, however, make it clear to the committee at the outset that the acceptance of suggestions must depend not only upon their fitness, but upon their practicability in view of the general arrangements, and especially in regard to the expense involved.

It is a good plan to appoint a few members of the Election Committee as an emergency committee, to consult with the election agent upon all matters of pressing importance. Five (including the Chairman) are ample.

Frequent meetings of the whole committee are undesirable, as waste of time is occasioned thereby.

It has been pointed out that an Election Committee may render very important services; but it appears necessary to add that the committee should be impressed with the fact that it has no right under the existing law to assume any administrative function. It should confine itself strictly to the organisation of the district workers, and to deliberation and recommendation. The election agent alone is responsible for administration and for the organisation of his staff.

Above all, the Election Committee must avoid incurring expenditure of any kind. The election agent is bound to keep strict control of financial matters, and it is illegal for a committee, or any member of it, to incur any expenditure on account of the election.

The Election Committee should appoint a sub-committee to assist the election agent in arranging public meetings, another sub-committee to assist in the preparation of posters and leaflets, while another might usefully devote itself to securing promises of vehicles for use on the polling day.

Occasionally it may be found desirable to appoint a detective committee to collect evidence with reference to corrupt or illegal practices suspected or discovered.

Though nothing has been said previously in this chapter about the desirability of having women on the Election Committee, it is assumed that every agent will realise the vital importance of this. Women have not, perhaps, so much experience as men in electoral matters, but the freshness of their view may prove a great asset. Thoroughly representative women will be of great value in advising as to the likely effect of any particular propaganda upon the women electors and as to the best way to reach them with a view to securing their votes.—From Wooding's "Conduct and Management of Parliamentary Elections."

SELECTION OF CANDIDATE IN BOROUGH DIVISIONS.

Question.—We in this Division are shortly proceeding to the selection of our Parliamentary candidate, and the Borough Party want to butt in on us in this matter. I should be glad if you will please answer in the "Labour Organiser" saying whether they have any right to do so? Ours is a Division in a Divided Borough.

Answer.—It is our correspondent who is wrong. The Borough Party formerly known as the Central Labour Party have certainly a right in the matter and it is very advisable indeed that they should exercise it, though in the exercise of all supervisory rights it is proper that it should be exercised in a tactful and conciliatory manner.

The model rules of the Labour Party for the selection of a Parliamentary candidate in a Division of a Divided Borough provide inter alia as follows:—

"The desirability of contesting the constituency should first be considered by the Executive Committee of the Borough Labour Party and the Executive Committee of this Party (the Divisional Party) in consultation with the National Executive and the Party Officers."

There is a corresponding provision in the rules for Borough Labour Parties which reads as follows:—

"In the case of Parliamentary candidates when a Divisional Labour Party recommends that their constituency should be contested the Executive Committees of the Borough and Divisional Labour Parties in consultation with the National Executive and the Party officers shall consider the desirability of

a contest in relation to the political situation throughout the Divided Borough."

Our correspondent will see therefore that the matter is pretty clearly governed by Party rules, but we will carry the matter further for we are never satisfied to rely merely on rules without showing the value and common-sense which may lie behind them.

The second rule quoted speaks of the desirability of a contest in relation to the political situation throughout the Divided Borough. Now we frankly admit that with the present front of Labour and the policy of fighting in every possible seat the question of the desirability of a candidature needs not to be considered with precisely the same caution as might have been thought necessary a few years ago. On the question of desirability then there is very little to be said.

But when the Labour Movement in a great city united, as it must be, on a Municipal policy, sets out also on its Parliamentary campaign, surely the necessity of co-ordinated action needs no second thought. If co-ordination is to begin at all it should begin at the beginning and the question of who is to be the candidate or how a candidate shall be selected is properly a concern not solely of the electors in a particular Division, for, though it may be for them principally, it is also a matter of prime concern for the Movement in other parts of the Borough.

It must be remembered that the Labour Movement is not a mere aggregation of individual units resident in set geographical boundaries, but in addition to our individual voices we have our collective voices and interests, and these same collective voices and interests never begin and end in a particular constituency. We have said before that constituencies should not be regarded as water-tight compartments for the veins and arteries of Labour do not run into any one constituency but run through them all. So in a Borough we have our Trades Union Branches which overlap and Socialist Societies which do the same, and other councils and bodies in all of which we have a voice and all of which possess a collective voice too.

So, therefore, the Borough Party, representative as it is of all the Labour interests and organisations of a great town, becomes entitled to a say in the

matter when a candidate is to be selected. It is a consultative "say"; it is not the choice itself, nor in fact is it provided that the Borough Party has any right of appearance at the selection meeting, though it should be understood that Borough Party representatives ought to attend on all such important occasions.

After the earlier consultations the Divisional Labour Party can be "authorised to proceed" to the selection of their candidate; there is no provision made requiring the endorsement of the Borough Party afterwards, though here again only head-strongness and stupidity on one side or the other, or on both sides, could eventuate in a situation where the Borough Party refused endorsement to a selection properly made.

We might add for the benefit of our correspondent that there is a further provision in the rules providing for an emergency whereby the Executive of the Borough Labour Party in conjunction with the local E.C. are brought into the actual selection of a candidate.

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We are interested to know that Mr. W. H. Jacob, who has recently left Walthamstow to become the agent of the North Hackney Labour Party, had a farewell social evening in his honour at Walthamstow, when he was presented with a wallet of treasury notes and a silver mounted walking stick. Mrs. Jacob was the recipient also of a silver tea and coffee service and a wine tray. Mr. Jacob is the chairman of the London Branch of the Labour Agents' Association, and all colleagues will wish him success in his new sphere.

Continued from page 1.

tended to interest and create a sense of the importance of membership. We have before us as we write samples of the ballot papers that were issued for the sixth annual meeting of the North Norfolk Divisional Labour Party held in May, and here the postal ballot was an outstanding success and saved considerable time at the annual meeting. No less than 84 delegates voted through the post.